

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 16-22 with the following:

According to the present invention, there is provided an inductor component which comprises a magnetic core comprising at least one gap, an excitation coil disposed on the magnetic core so as to form a magnetic path on the magnetic core, and at least one permanent magnet ~~magnet~~ disposed near the at least one ~~of the gaps. gap,~~ and at least one first soft magnetic material piece disposed between the at least one permanent magnet and the magnetic core, ~~in the present invention, the permanent magnet is disposed across from a wherein the~~ first soft magnetic material piece is formed of a soft magnetic material which has a smaller permeability and less eddy current loss than the magnetic core.

And please amend the abstract at page 16, lines 2-11 with the following:

An inductor component ~~comprises~~ is provided which includes a magnetic core having at least one gap, an excitation coil disposed on the magnetic core so as to form a magnetic path on the magnetic core, ~~and at least one permanent magnets~~ magnet disposed near ~~the~~ at least one of ~~the gaps- gap, and at least one first soft magnetic material piece disposed between the at least one permanent magnet and the magnetic core.~~ With this inductor component, ~~the permanent magnets are disposed across from a wherein the first soft magnetic material piece is formed of a soft magnetic material which has a smaller permeability and less eddy current loss than the magnetic core. With this inductor component, few restrictions exist with regard to the form of the positioned permanent magnet, generation of heat of the permanent magnet due to the magnetic flux from the coil wound on the magnetic core is suppressed, and properties do not deteriorate.~~